

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 6 are pending. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended.

Claim 5 was rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated by Chong, Jr.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Chong, Jr. in view of Uchiyama et al.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over Chong, Jr. in view of Idleman et al.

The present invention is directed to storage systems. Briefly, at least a first and second controllers are provided. If the first controller fails, the second controller takes on the identity of the second controller so that a host connected to the first controller can continue communicating as if the first controller had not failed. A discussion for how this is failover takes place is discussed on page 6, lines 18 - 27 and on page 7, lines 1 - 8 of the specification in connection with an illustrative embodiment of the invention shown in Fig. 1.

An aspect of the present invention as recited in claim 1 is "a plurality of communication lines between a first controller and said second controller" so that if the first controller fail, "then said second controller obtains information from said first controller which identifies said first controller so that said second controller responds to requests sent from said first host." A further aspect of the invention is that the first host "continues processing said access from said first host using said communication lines."

Chong, Jr. shows in Fig. 1B a dedicated data link 196 between controller 120 and controller 130. *Col. 1, lines 46 - 47*. However, Fig. 1B does not show that the controller 130 "obtains information from said first controller which identifies said first controller so that said second controller responds to requests sent from said first host," or that that the first host "continues processing said access from said first host using said communication lines." Fig. 1B of Chong, Jr. does not anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 1.

Chong, Jr. shows in Fig. 5A, a controller 520 connected to memory 540, and a controller 530 also connected to memory 540. However, Fig. 5A does not show "a plurality of communication lines between a first controller and said second controller." There are no data lines between controller 520 and controller 530. Fig. 5A does not anticipate the present invention as recited in claim 1.

In addition, Fig. 5A does not show that "said second controller obtains information from said first controller which identifies said first controller so that said second controller responds to requests sent from said first host." Chong, Jr. discloses with reference to Fig. 2 that "backup memory controller 230 taps interconnect 290 to obtain a backup copy of the data packet as the data packet is being sent from processor 210 to primary memory controller 220 (step 330). Tapping can be accomplished in a number of ways. For example, backup memory controller 230 may "listen" on interconnect 290 and extract all data packets whose destination address matches that of primary memory controller 220." *Col. 3, lines 41 - 50 (underlining added)*. Chong, Jr. teaches a technique of tapping (i.e., "listening") on the interconnect for data sent from a host. Thus, data in a request destined for the primary controller can be picked up by the backup controller. The data is thus stored "in their respective caches 225, 235." *Id at lines 54 - 55*. Chong, Jr. therefore, does not show that "said second controller obtains information from said first controller which identifies said first controller so that said second controller responds to requests sent from said first host," and in addition, does not render obvious this aspect of the invention, since the backup controller already has the data since it taps the interconnect 290.

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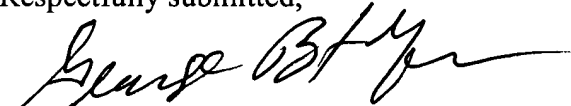
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CONCLUSION

All claims now pending in this Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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